



CACCP

Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies

**Testimony of Carrie Rand-Anastasiades
General Law Committee
In Opposition to
HB 5202 AA Prohibiting Pharmacists From Making Changes to Prescriptions Without Physician Consent**

Good Afternoon Representative Baram, Senator Leone, and Senator Witkos and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies. We represent chain pharmacies around the State such as Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Stop & Shop, and PriceChopper to name a few. I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 5202 AAC Prohibiting Pharmacists From Making Changes to Prescriptions Without Physician Consent.

Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies and its members oppose this legislation, due to the fact that it is unnecessary. Physicians currently have the ability to direct pharmacists from changing prescriptions by writing or checking the box that states Dispense As Written (DAW) or No Substitution. This is a standard course of procedure to ensure that a patient gets a specific drug, whether it be brand or generic, and it works very well. In the absence of DAW, the pharmacist is free to dispense a lower cost generic, or give a different configuration of a dose to the patient. In many cases this helps the patient get the maximum benefit from their Insurer who sets, and frequently changes, their formulary. The legislation before you, sweeps away that ability and the burden will be born onto patients in the form higher prescription costs. If a prescriber does not utilize DAW, it usually means the individual is healthy enough to receive a similar drug with the same therapeutic equivalency.

The pharmacist is an essential part of the healthcare delivery system, and manages not only the patient and their insurance needs but also physician and his or her requests. We ask you to think twice before removing their professional abilities with HB 5202 and recognize the impact it will have on the public at large. Thank you for your consideration.